



AGM 2025

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Langton Green Village Hall, Tunbridge Wells
And online via Zoom

Draft Minutes

1. Opening of AGM, notices, & introduction by Chair

Jen Cox opened the meeting at 2pm, welcomed attendees and guests, and confirmed that the meeting was quorate in accordance with the constitution.

2. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attending in person:

Liz Scholey (Treasurer of Open Morris, Iron Spring)
Jen Cox (Chair of Open Morris, Central Area Rep, Theale Tattoo)
Mike Salter (Beacon Morris, Life Member)
Virginia Robson (Blackpowder Morris)
David Robson (Blackpowder Morris)
Ron Tuur (The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts)
Adrian Waters (The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts)
Janette Aindow (Mucky Mountains)
Dave Friend (Mucky Mountains)
Fee Lock (Individual Member of Open Morris, Secretary of the Joint Morris Organisation)
Steven Archer (Treasurer of the Joint Morris Organisation)
Peter Celi Stamp (Treasurer, The Morris Federation – kindly acting as vote teller)
Rob Evans (Bagman, The Morris Ring – kindly acting as vote teller)

Attending online:

Chris Bevington (Membership Secretary of Open Morris, Tatters Morris)
Malcolm Hills (Web Officer of Open Morris, Whatfedale Wayzgoose)
Julie Greenwood (Flagcrackers of Craven)
Ian Hinksman (Foxs Border Morris)
Chris Hall (Life Member)

Dave Bolam (Borderline Morris)
Clare Mach (South Central Area Rep, Devils Jumps)
Anne-Marie Coomber (Nominated as Treasurer of Open Morris, Bunnies From Hell)
Nicki Pickering (Wales and North West Area Rep, Cadi Ha)
David Ball (East Midlands Area Rep, Corby Conspiracy)
Jess Searle (Bunnies From Hell)
Mike Stimpson (Life Member, Insurance Officer of the Joint Morris Organisation)
Cindy Foster (Erstwhile Border Morris)
Liz Wozniak (South West Area Rep)
Dave Lowe (Earl of Stamford)
Nickie Dailly (Individual member)
Robin James (Individual member, East Anglia Area Rep, Fenstanton)

Apologies were received from the following teams:

Beltane
Crosskey Clog
Nightshade
Lepton Morris
Meon Valley Morris
Freaks in the Peaks
Ragged Oak

And the following individuals:

Kim Woodward (Life Member)
Hetty Bevington (Secretary of Open Morris)

3. Minutes of 2024 AGM

These were taken as read.

4. Adoption of Minutes of 2024 AGM

For	Against	Abstain
17	0	2

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

None arising in addition to later agenda items.

6. Officers' Reports (taken as read), Officers' comments, and queries from the floor:

Reports were taken as read with no queries from the room.

- a) Chair
- b) Membership Secretary
- c) Secretary
- d) Web Officer
- e) Treasurer

Liz Scholey spoke about her report. In general we are in a good position with income from subs, and sales of Morris For All badges, and are in a stronger position financially than this time last year. Our subs level is set to match that of the Morris Federation and will remain

the same for the forthcoming year. We must be cautious not to overspend on next year's JMO Day of Dance, as these can produce much higher levels of expenditure. We should be careful with our resources to remain in a stable position.

Liz expressed a warm vote of thanks to Steven Archer for his help as Independent Reviewer during her time as treasurer.

f) Adoption of Treasurer's report:

For	Against	Abstain
19	0	0

Jen thanked Liz for all her hard work as Treasurer, and is pleased to note that Liz is staying on as part of the Open Morris team, both as South East Area Rep and will be newly appointed as EDI Rep.

Reports from other Officials:

- North East – Malcolm Hills
- West Midlands – Craig Simmonds
- South West – Liz Wozniak
- Wales & North West – Nicki Pickering
- East Anglia – Robin James
- South East – position vacant
- Central – Jen Cox
- South Central – Clare Mach

These were taken as read.

7. Election of Officers:

a) Chair – Jen Cox

Proposed by Borderline Morris, seconded by Theale Tattoo

For	Against	Abstain
21	0	0

b) Membership Secretary – Chris Bevington

Proposed by Tatters Morris, seconded by Lepton Morris

For	Against	Abstain
20	0	1

c) Secretary – Hetty Bevington

Proposed by Tatters Morris, seconded by Theale Tattoo

For	Against	Abstain
20	0	1

d) Treasurer – Anne-Marie Coomber
Proposed by Bunnies From Hell, seconded by Bedcote Morris

For	Against	Abstain
21	0	0

e) Web Officer – Malcolm Hills
Proposed by Wharfedale Wayzgoose, seconded by Iron Spring

For	Against	Abstain
19	0	2

All those standing for officer positions were therefore duly elected.

8. Appointment of Officials

Liz Scholey, stepping down as Treasurer, was formally appointed to a newly created position as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Representative, and was also appointed as South East Area Rep, filling a vacant position. Both of these roles are co-opted positions in the gift of the committee and as such did not require a vote. Liz's appointments were met with a round of applause.

9. Appointment of Independent Reviewer

This position will be filled in due course ahead of the 2026 AGM. A suitable prospective individual to fill this role is known to the Committee but has not yet been approached.

10. Nominations for Honorary / Life Membership

Liz Scholey was formally nominated for Life Membership by Jen Cox and the rest of the remaining Committee, having served as Treasurer for 8 years and as Membership Secretary for the preceding year, and gone above and beyond the call of duty in her work with the organisation. Liz was duly awarded Life Membership by the unanimous will of the meeting, and thanked very warmly for her dedication to Open Morris and her comradeship during her time in office.

For	Against	Abstain
18	0	0

11. Motions

None received.

12. JMO business

a) Days of Dance

- JMO DoDs are hosted in rotation by the three organisations, and 2026 is OM's turn. Jen has offered to host this in Reading in the autumn, as dates in spring have too many clashes with other events. Reading is a large town, with lots of local teams, and is easily accessible on public transport, with some great spots for massed dancing. Potential dates are Sat 19th Sept or Sat 3rd Oct 2026.

b) Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

- Fee Lock explained that the UK's ratification of the UNESCO ICH convention will mean compiling an inventory of activities taking place in the UK. This is being administered by a team of civil servants, and has been beset with delays, but the JMO is poised to act to submit listings when the inventory is opened. As ever, defining what we do will be tricky but we will aim to represent all the activities of our members, and we will consult the membership during the process.

c) Letter to members from JMO heads (Appendix 3)

- Jen spoke about this letter, detailing issues with use of facepaint. There have been issues with teams using eg grey or dark colours being perceived as black in photographs and videos, and this causing a problem for event organisers.
- Jen warned members that there is a very real risk of losing events and funding, and of legal action being taken as the result of these incidents, so OM's advice is to minimise the risk of this and present the best face we can for Morris.
- Some anecdotes about unacceptable looks were related, and about teams pushing the boundaries of the JMO guidance.
- Some teams asked questions about their specific facepaint, Jen answered that all the looks of represented teams are fine, as it would be difficult to photograph them in such a way as to represent a full face look, but that teams should be careful to consider the impact of facial hair in addition to paint when choosing designs.

13. The Sue Dyke Award

Due to illness amongst the committee, this award has not been run in 2025 following the proposal to change the format to a nomination-style award. The award fund contains £1347, and it is planned to run the award in 2026, remaining open to all young JMO members, and those working with young members.

14. The Doug Pickering Memorial Fund

This fund remains available to new teams seeking grants towards equipment and kit. The fund has previously been capped at £50, Jen proposed that increasing this amount might be appropriate due to inflation since the fund began, the committee will discuss this at future meetings but do have capacity to top up the fund. There was speculation that teams don't know about the fund, hence keeping it as a discussion item on the AGM agenda.

A new member team, Cambridge Rapper, is aware of the fund but had not yet applied, and was concerned that they might be too late, but it was confirmed that applications to the fund are considered on a case by case basis, and that Open Morris would like the fund money to be used.

15. EDI Panel Report

- The JMO EDI panel were approached by Roots Morris who wanted a badge or something to display on their kit challenging the perception of morris as un-inclusive – this led to the production of our 'Morris For All' badges, of which over 1500 have

now been sold across the JMO. These are lovely rainbow coloured enamel badges, and are available from us at £1 each.

- The EDI panel aims to improve perception of Morris in the media. In the UK, cultural heritage is the butt of jokes while in other countries tradition is celebrated. We aim to widen the positive perception of morris and make it easier for teams and individuals to overcome barriers of race, gender, religion, culture etc, and get involved.
- The panel also plans to produce media celebrating the diversity we do have within morris. Our racial diversity is poor, but we are stronger in other diversities, such as LGBTQ+. The UNESCO ICH project will hopefully be helpful in this area.

16. Any Other Business

Chris Hall raised the issue of the vacant Magazine Editor post and lack of a magazine. In recent years. Ill health on the Committee has prevented a plan to produce a magazine without an additional volunteer to oversee it, as sourcing content and designing a magazine is a time consuming task taken as a whole. The Committee have capacity to do some of this work, but need input from the membership. There was a discussion about the format of the magazine, confirming that producing a digital edition is not significantly easier, although much cheaper, and this would be likely to be the way forward in future.

If anyone would like to volunteer for this role, or knows someone who might be interested, please do get in touch.

17. Date and venue of next AGM

A more northern location for the 2026 AGM was discussed as we've been in the south two years running. Cindy Foster of Erstwhile Border Morris provisionally offered to host in Worcestershire, and there was a brief discussion about what hosting an AGM entails, such as available internet, a morning workshop, and catering. The hybrid meeting format was felt to have worked well, providing an accessible meeting for those not able to travel.

Subsequent to the meeting, it was confirmed that the 2026 AGM will take place in Worcestershire on Sunday 22nd November.

18. Close of Meeting

Jen Cox recorded a vote of thanks to all those who attended and participated in the meeting both in person and online, to Mike Salter for running the very enjoyable Molly dance workshop in the morning, to Iron Spring for hosting the meeting, and to our guests from the Morris Federation and the Morris Ring for joining us.

The meeting closed at 15.06.

Appendices

1. Minutes of 2024 AGM
2. Officer Candidate Statements
3. Letter to members from JMO heads
4. Officer's Reports
5. Area Representative Reports